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JUL 14 1958

Major General Jacob E. Smart
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, USAF
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Smart:

25X1A I should like to take this opportunity to set forth my firm conviction that Major [REDACTED] a member of my staff, should receive the most serious kind of consideration for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel during the current promotion cycle. Major [REDACTED] has been associated with me since 1955, and I have thus been able to observe his performance closely on a variety of tasks over a relatively long time span. The judgments of his performance I made and recorded in his two previous Effectiveness Reports (in 1956 and 1957) have continued to be justified.

25X1A In my view, Major [REDACTED] has shown considerable strength in all fields to which he has been assigned, but I should like to note three areas especially in which he has demonstrated capabilities which seem to me highly desirable in a senior Air Force officer. First, Major [REDACTED] has an intuitive faculty for anticipating problems, and consequently for dealing with the situation before a crisis develops. Second, his staff preparation is done with exceeding care and clarity, without sacrifice of speed, so that his recommendations may be accepted in the full knowledge that no essentials have been overlooked. Third, he possesses an ease of bearing and manner that inspires confidence, an invaluable trait in any liaison assignment. The sum total of these characteristics, with Major [REDACTED] integrity and mental acumen, represent to me indicators of a high potential for future growth.

25X1A As you know, Major [REDACTED]'s assignment has also called for maintenance of the most stringent security, itself a complicating and frustrating factor in the accomplishment of any task. That Major [REDACTED]

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has been able to work effectively despite this handicap is typical of the spirit of accomplishment and intelligence he has brought to this organization from the beginning. I am confident that his promotion would constitute most proper recognition of the contribution he has made and continues to make. As a further indication of our confidence in his abilities, I should mention that it is our intention again to request another year's extension of his tour of duty with us when that time comes next Spring.

Very sincerely yours,

(sgd) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

Richard M. Bissell, Jr.
Special Assistant to the Director

DPS/DCI:RKW/sb

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